SLS 22RS-1421 **ENGROSSED** 

2022 Regular Session

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY SENATORS FOIL, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, HENSGENS, LUNEAU AND FRED MILLS

BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS. Requests the Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana commercial health insurance payors to increase reimbursement rates for autism therapy services.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana commercial health
3	insurance payors to increase reimbursement rates for autism therapy services.
4	WHEREAS, access to high-quality applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy services
5	for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) furnished by private providers is essential
6	for the health, safety, and well-being of those children; and
7	WHEREAS, in 2008, the legislature mandated that all health coverage plans in
8	Louisiana, including Medicaid plans, include coverage for medically necessary ABA therapy
9	for children with ASD; and
10	WHEREAS, reliable and sufficient Medicaid and commercial insurance
11	reimbursement rates for private providers are necessary to create and maintain a sustainable
12	statewide system of services for children with ASD; and
13	WHEREAS, research has consistently shown that early detection, diagnosis, and
14	treatment of ASD is essential to ensuring that early intervention ABA therapy services have
15	the most positive impact on the social, communicative, and behavioral skills of a child with
16	ASD; and
17	WHEREAS, due to significant access barriers, families in Louisiana routinely may
18	have to wait up to six to twelve months for a formal evaluation by a child psychologist or

1	other clinician to obtain an ASD diagnosis and another six to twelve months to access ABA
2	therapy services; and
3	WHEREAS, due to these long wait times, families in Louisiana often are not able to
4	access medically necessary autism therapy services at the appropriate time, thus delaying
5	their child's progress; and
6	WHEREAS, a delay in accessing services ultimately costs more money since these
7	children often need more intensive therapy for a longer period of time than children who are
8	able to access ABA therapy early on; and
9	WHEREAS, since inception of the Medicaid ABA therapy program in 2014,
10	reimbursement rates for Medicaid ABA services have decreased by as much as twenty-four
11	percent for some services, while the price of labor and prices for almost all goods and
12	services have increased dramatically; and
13	WHEREAS, ABA therapy providers are limited by existing reimbursement rates
14	when determining pay rates for individuals who deliver ABA therapy services and, across
15	Louisiana, adequate staffing is a major barrier to families accessing ABA therapy services;
16	and
17	WHEREAS, Louisiana Medicaid is one of only a few state Medicaid programs in the
18	country to use a bifurcated rate structure that reimburses providers different amounts for
19	delivery of the same ABA therapy service, based solely on the education level of the
20	individual providing the service; and
21	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Medicaid reimbursement rate for ABA services delivered
22	by a registered line technician without a college degree is in the lower twenty percent of all
23	states nationwide; and
24	WHEREAS, numerous states are reviewing their reimbursement rates in light of
25	current challenges to providing access to ABA therapy services; and
26	WHEREAS, providers of ABA therapy services for children with ASD are essential
27	and the services they deliver for children with ASD are invaluable; and
28	WHEREAS, fair and equitable funding for ABA therapy providers that make up this
29	state's autism services system is necessary in order to ensure that Louisiana children with

ASD have access to medically necessary therapy services.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 1 2 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana commercial health 3 insurance payors to increase reimbursement rates to reflect changes in the cost of providing 4 ABA therapy services and to ensure adequate access to medically necessary therapy services for Louisiana children with ASD. 5 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge and request the 7 Louisiana Department of Health to make adjustments in the state Medicaid budget to 8 allocate more fair and equitable funding for ABA therapy providers. 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the executive director of the Louisiana 10 11 Association of Health Plans.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

DIGEST 2022 Regular Session

Foil

Requests the La. Department of Health and Louisiana commercial health insurance payors to increase reimbursement rates for autism therapy services.

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

SCR 28 Engrossed

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Makes a technical correction.